

I am proud to say that the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral exemplifies the greatness in our nation's religious and community institutions.

LET'S NOT BREAK OLD PROMISES TO OUR VETERANS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, there's something wrong when the administration says we can afford to build new hospitals in Iraq, but we cannot afford to keep open six veterans' hospitals here in America.

It would be shameful, during a time of war, to be cutting medical services for American veterans, even as we are improving health care for Iraqi citizens. As we make new promises to Iraqis, let's not break old promises to our veterans.

Vote "yes" on the motion to recommit to increasing VA health care by \$1.3 billion. Our vets deserve no less.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. CORCORAN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 27, 2003 I attended a Mass of Christian Burial for John M. Corcoran of Massachusetts. The Mass, held at St. Elizabeth's Church in Milton, Massachusetts celebrated the life of a very special person. I offer my condolences to John's two sons, John and Thomas; his sisters, Mary, Theresa, Claire, Bernadette and Frances, and his two brothers, Joe and Leo. I would also ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Boston Globes's obituary, that was so eloquently written by Tom Long.

JOHN CORCORAN, DEVELOPER OF REAL ESTATE, GOOD WILL; AT 80

John M. Corcoran grew up in a triple-decker at the end of the driveway to St. Margaret's Hospital in Dorchester, and he never forgot where he came from. After earning millions as a real estate developer, he contributed time and money in the creation of St. Mary's Women and Infant Center, a multiservice agency for Dorchester residents that was born in 1993 after St. Margaret's closed.

"He knew what it was like to live in poverty, and knew what a difference it could make when you had support around you," Judy Beckler, president of the Women and Infant Center, said yesterday, of Mr. Corcoran, 80, who died Wednesday at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Beckler said she couldn't give a figure for how much money Mr. Corcoran donated to the center. "It's not something he would approve of," she said. "He hoped, in time, people would understand that his time and commitment were more important than any money he donated."

But the total was at least \$500,000, according to a story published in the Globe in 1995.

The center now includes a homeless shelter, has 20 beds for pregnant teenagers and is home to nine nonprofit groups that offer a

number of services from child care to computer training.

"He wanted us to become a vital institution in Dorchester," said Beckler. "He had a commitment and a vision, and really believed that folks could make a difference in other people's lives."

As a member of the center's board of trustees, Mr. Corcoran was always willing to ask the hard questions. "He once told me, 'I learned long ago not to practice trustee etiquette,'" said Beckler.

One of eight children of an Irish-immigrant factory worker, Mr. Corcoran sometimes hawked newspapers as a young man to help his family make ends meet. He shoveled coal at St. Margaret's. And he spent a childhood summer with relatives in Ireland.

He attended Boston English High School. When the United States entered World War II, he answered the call and became a paratrooper.

In the months before the D-Day invasion of France, his family lost contact with him for three months. Every night, the sound of rosary beads rattled through the two-bedroom apartment in Dorchester as his siblings prayed for his safe return.

Finally his mother received a letter. "Mom, I smelled something today that I haven't smelled since I was 7," he wrote, "the sweet smell of turf burning on a fire."

To his family's relief, Mr. Corcoran was alive and well and training in Ireland.

Mr. Corcoran parachuted into France in the early hours of the D-Day invasion.

"I once asked him what D-Day was like," his brother Joe of Milton said yesterday. "He said: 'It was the most exhilarating and most exciting time of my life; unfortunately, some people got killed, and others got hurt.'"

Mr. Corcoran was among the injured. He was awarded a Bronze Star as well as a Purple Heart.

After the war, Mr. Corcoran attended Boston College. He completed his bachelor's degree in three years, even though he was working 40 hours a week shoveling coal at St. Margaret's.

He then began John M. Corcoran & Co., a real estate development firm, which he operated with his brothers Leo and Joe, who later left to start his own firm, Corcoran Jennison Companies.

"We were a lot more confident than our parents were," Mr. Corcoran told The World of Hibernia magazine. "We knew we were at least as smart as anyone else—if not smarter. And you also knew you were an American, and you had that right."

John M. Corcoran & Co. has built or managed more than 15,000 apartment units and a million square feet of suburban properties including Quincy Commons and Weymouth Commons apartment complexes.

Mr. Corcoran contributed to many charities, among them the Christian Jewish Center at Boston College, where he was a trustee.

He had 50 nieces and nephews, and he loved to ski. Every year, he brought his extended family on a ski trip to New Hampshire. For many years, he rented the entire Bartlett Hotel for his family, and children would be running through its hallways for a week.

Each year, Mr. Corcoran took a trip to the Alta Ski Area in Utah. "He was looking forward to going this year," said Joe. "When you reach 80 years old, you get to ski for free. It wasn't the money, but it was a status thing with him."

In addition to his brothers, both of whom are Milton residents, he leaves two sons, John and Thomas, also of Milton; five sisters, Mary of Dorchester, Theresa of Quincy, and Claire Carten, Bernadette Richards, and Frances Richer, all of Milton; and five grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Elizabeth's Church in Milton. Burial will be in Milton Cemetery.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, every three minutes a woman in America is diagnosed with breast cancer. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 40 and 55.

In my state of Georgia, this year an estimated 5,400 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 1,000 women will die from the disease.

In the two counties I represent, 86 people a year die from breast cancer in DeKalb County and in Gwinnett County, 38 people a year die from breast cancer.

The breast cancer death rate is even higher among African American women—with an estimated 20,000 expected new cases in 2003.

Early detection is the key. Mammography screening can detect the disease before any symptoms occur.

Women must have guaranteed access to mammograms and preventive care, including regular checkups.

We also need to prevent insurers and employers from discriminating against women because they are more likely to get diseases like breast cancer. We must pass the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act.

But our top priority must be finding a cure.

Too many of our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends die from this disease. Funding early prevention and finding a cure should be national priorities.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARE- NESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of October being the month to increase awareness of domestic violence, and educate individuals about the services available to assist victims. Therefore, it is significant that we recognize October as the National Awareness Month for Domestic Violence.

According to the United States Department of Justice, domestic violence can be defined as, a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful, or harassing behavior. Partners may be married or not married, heterosexual, gay, lesbian, living together, separated or dating.

Over the last thirty years, there has been a radical change in not only the understanding of domestic violence, but also the acknowledgement of responses from individuals and